

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 1 has been amended to reinsert limitations in that claim which were added in the Amendment filed on March 31, 2003 and later inadvertently left out of claim 1 in the Amendment filed on October 3, 2003. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to address definiteness issues.

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite. As noted above, claims 2 and 3 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner and are now definite.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirasawa (US 5,160,287). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Hirasawa discloses that the electron shield is made of aluminum (see column 4, lines 6-8 of Hirasawa). Hirasawa fails to disclose that the electron shield may include different materials or materials having different anhysteretic magnetic permeability characteristics. Therefore, Hirasawa fails to disclose a configuration in which "at least a part of the electron shield is formed of a material having a smaller anhysteretic magnet permeability than another part of the electron shield . . . when an applied magnetic field is 800 A/m (10 Oe)", as required by claim 1. Thus, Hirasawa fails to disclose every limitation of claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirasawa in view of Kokubu (US 4,931,690). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As discussed above, Hirasawa fails to disclose every limitation of claim 1. Applicants submit that Hirasawa also fails to suggest all of the limitations of claim 1. Kokubu fails to remedy the deficiencies of Hirasawa as it relates to claim 1. Therefore, claims 2 and 3 are allowable for at least the reason they are dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: Mar. 30, 2004

Curtis B. Hamre
Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165
CBH:JNR:PLSdb

